



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

**Draft Minutes: April 23, 2026, 7:30pm**

**Manorhaven Village Hall**

*33 Manorhaven Blvd, Port Washington*

## **Attendance:**

Representatives: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Nancy Shahverdi (Town Commissioner of Planning), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates), Jeff Stone (Manorhaven), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Rich Dunphy (Plandome), Nancy Sherman (Thomaston), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck)

Guests: Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Janet Riger, Sarah Deonarine (Director)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:34pm with a quorum in attendance.**

Note: Action items are in **yellow highlight**. *Motions are in italicized underline.*

## **Discussion & Motion Points:**

1. *Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of March 26, 2026.* Tom Lang seconded. The motion carried with one abstention.
2. *Maria Branco made a motion to purchase supplies for the 2026 summer water quality sampling season at a cost not to exceed \$1000.* Mike Ertel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. *Discussion: this is for calibration standards and storage solutions.*
3. *Maria Branco made a motion to set a contingency cost cap of \$1,000 for equipment maintenance or repair for the summer 2026 water quality monitoring season.* Rich Dunphy seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
4. *Maria Branco made a motion to renew Weebly website design software for one year at a cost not to exceed \$110.* Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. *Discussion: this is the only web-related renewal this calendar year; web domains will need to be renewed in 2027.*
5. *Maria Branco made a motion to purchase annual Microsoft Office software subscriptions for the Committee at a cost of not more than \$100.* Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

6. Mike Ertel made a motion to approve accepting the public comments received on the draft recommendations of the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)<sup>1</sup>. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: there will be one more public meeting and comment period on the WQIP (not planned yet).
7. Maria Branco made a motion to sign-on to a letter that supports the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act sponsored by Senator Harckhan and Assemblymember Glick (S.1464/A.1749). Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
8. The Educational Manhasset Bay Inspection Tour for elected officials will be on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> aboard the Angler. Invitations will go to all the villages with a limit of two participants. This event is meant to target decision makers to show them various concerns around the Bay.
9. It was agreed that the June Committee meeting be held for a couple of minutes before the June 9<sup>th</sup> educational event.
10. The May Joint Protection Committee meeting was scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at Sands Point. However, it was noted that NYCOM's (NY Commission of Mayors) annual conference conflicts with the meeting and we may lose some participation to NYCOM. **Deonarine will explore options for moving the meeting and then let the Committee know.**
11. The North Shore Protection Committees (MBPC, Hempstead Harbor, and Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor) want to put in a Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant proposal requesting \$100K with \$50K in-kind match. This would be for an educational project to teach various polluted stormwater runoff-related topics to different audiences (residents, business owners, institutions, and municipal officials and staff). **Deonarine will get clarification on whether MBPC is supposed to take the lead on the administration of the grant or writing the grant.**

#### **Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:**

- Long Island Sound Partnership Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC<sup>2</sup>) -- The Partnership is offering "Stewardship Site" signage to install indicating that your park or site is designated as a Long Island Sound Stewardship Area. Manhasset Bay is one of 33 designated Stewardship Areas around Long Island Sound. The aluminum sign is 9" x 12", either horizontal or vertical, and can be easily mounted or hung in a kiosk. The QR code on the sign will link to the Partnership's [Stewardship Atlas](#) which is where they post more details about each area. The Partnership is paying for the signs. **Deonarine will forward the email to all the municipalities.**
- North Shore Fertilizer Education – no update

<sup>1</sup> This project was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

<sup>2</sup>MBPC is a member

• Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director • Email: [mbpcExec@gmail.com](mailto:mbpcExec@gmail.com) •  
• [manhassetbay.net](http://manhassetbay.net) •

- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) – no update
- Federal Shellfish Seeding Grant – seed will be going into Manhasset Bay this summer, probably in July
- Town of North Hempstead (Nancy Shahverdi): The Town started a Nitrogen Smart Communities campaign. One thing that will come about is stormwater education, so there may be some overlap with the work the North Shore Protection Committees are doing.
- Tom Lang (Plandome Manor): Manhasset Bay Oyster Gardening has been funded through Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Suffolk CARE (Community Aquaculture Restoration and Education) program for 2026. Councilmember Dalimonte championed the quest to find funding after CCE of Nassau had missed the application deadline.
- Town of North Hempstead (Nancy Shahverdi): The Town’s Native Plants Rebate Program is open to all residents. **Nancy Shahverdi will share the application and information about the programs.**
- Maria Branco (Baxter Estates): The village is getting closer to the reconstruction of Baxter Beach. NYSDEC made many changes to the original design and reduced the scope, but it’s more environmentally friendly according to NYSDEC. Sometime this summer they will start construction. This project will shore up Shore Road.
- Jeff Stone (Manorhaven): The Village is meeting with NY Sea Grant next Thursday about Manorhaven Beach Park and going over where to put spartina in the water, then eventually move to mussel mats.
- Maria Branco: there is a movement of all the water departments on Long Island (and it’s expanding throughout NYS) about recharging the aquifers and how do we do that. Their goals overlap with ours (keeping rainwater where it falls).

**Upcoming meetings and events:**

- Next Meeting: June 9<sup>th</sup> at Inspiration Wharf
- Upcoming events:
  - Joint Protection Committee meeting, May ?
  - Harbor Fest, June 7<sup>th</sup>

*Maria Branco made a motion to adjourn at 8:42pm.*